

# State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



## Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 17

Joint resolution urging FIFA to institute equal payment plans for men's and women's World Cup soccer teams

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton and Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford

Whereas, the Women's World Cup (WWC) has assumed increasing prominence in international soccer competition, and

Whereas, media coverage of this premier women's soccer tournament now rivals that afforded the original all-male World Cup (WC), and

Whereas, a large and enthusiastic crowd of over 50,000 fans witnessed the WWC championship game in Vancouver, British Columbia, in which the U.S. team defeated Japan 5–2, and

Whereas, in recognition of this singular athletic achievement, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), international soccer's governing body, paid the 2015 U.S. team \$2 million, twice the sum paid the 2011 WWC championship team, and

Whereas, despite FIFA's doubling of the WWC championship team's payment, it is a paltry amount in comparison to the sums FIFA awarded to participating men's teams at the 2014 WC, and

Whereas, FIFA paid each men's team \$1.5 million for appearing in the WC, and

Whereas, FIFA awarded those men's teams that lost in the first round a payment of \$8 million, four times the amount granted to the championship U.S. women's team, and

Whereas, most appalling, the 2014 FIFA men's championship team from Germany earned \$35 million for that nation's soccer federation, in excess of 1,700 percent of the amount that the 2015 FIFA women's championship team from the United States brought home, and

Whereas, at a time when ever-increasing importance is placed on equal compensation, regardless of gender, the discrepancy in pay awarded to men's WC and women's WWC teams is indefensible, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges FIFA to institute equal payment plans for men's and women's World Cup soccer teams, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland and to the U.S. Soccer Federation in Chicago, Illinois.